

Remarks:

These remarks are responsive to the Office action dated January 11, 2005. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-54 remained pending in the application. By this amendment, applicants have cancelled claims 8, 28, 30-33, 35 and 54 without prejudice.

In the January 11, 2005 Office action, various objections were made to the drawings and the disclosure. Applicants have amended the specification to address the Examiner's objections to the drawings and to the disclosure, as indicated above and discussed below.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 14-16, 28, 30-34, 44, 45, 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Childers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,322,205). Claims 5, 8-13, 29, 35-43 and 54 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 17-27 and 46-51 were allowed.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 14-16, 28, 30-34, 44, 45, 52 and 53. However, as described in detail below, applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in order to advance prosecution of the present application. Such amendments are made without prejudice to further prosecution in this application or any related application.

Objections to the Drawings and Disclosure

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "172" had been used to designate both "alignment pocket" and "terminal surface" in the specification. As indicated above, applicants

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have amended the paragraph starting on page 15, line 7 of the specification to designate "alignment pocket" with reference character 152 in order to be consistent with the drawings and the remainder of the specification. The drawings were also objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference character "270," which is not mentioned in the specification, and because they do not include reference character "272," which is mentioned in the specification. As indicated above, applicants have amended the paragraph starting on page 20, line 28 of the specification in order to provide consistency between the drawings and the specification. Accordingly, the objections to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and 1.84(p)(5) should be withdrawn.

The disclosure was objected to because of the following informalities: On page 9, line 17, "that" should be replaced with "than." As indicated above, applicants have amended the paragraph starting on page 9, line 11 of the specification to replace "that" with "than." Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Responsive to the Examiner's indication that original claims 5, 8-13, 29, 35-43 and 54 would be allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form various of such claims have been rewritten in independent form. In particular, claims 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 29 and 39 have been rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 1. The subject matter of claim 35 has been incorporated into claim 34. The subject matter of claim 54 has been incorporated into claim 52. Independent claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 29, 34, 39 and 52 thus are all in allowable form. Further, because claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9 and 14-16 depend from claim 1, claims 36-38 and 44-45 depend from claim 34, claims 40-43 depend from claim 39,

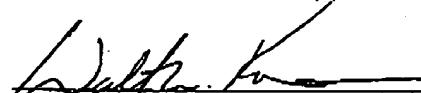
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and claim 53 depends from claim 52, those claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 34, 39 and 52, respectively.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner J. Stephens, Group Art Unit 2853, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on March 30, 2005.



Christie A. Doolittle

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